

Serial No.: 10/065,336
Attorney Docket No.: F-575

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-15 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 and canceled claims 2-5 and 13-15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have added new claims 16-27. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1, 6-12, and 16-27 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejection under 35 USC § 102

In section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,612,889 to Pintsov, et al. ("Pintsov '889").

Solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 12. Applicants have canceled claim 15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot and that the amended claim is patentable over the cited reference. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 12.

3. Rejection under 35 USC § 103

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0057824 by Andreasson ("Andreasson '824").

Solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1. Claims 8-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot and that the amended claims are patentable over the cited reference. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 1 and 8-9.

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In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 3-7 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0057824 by Andreasson ("Andreasson '824") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,311,042 to DeSchrijver ("DeSchrijver '042").

Solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1. Applicants have canceled claims 3-5 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6-7 and 10-11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot and that the amended claims are patentable over the cited reference. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 6-7 and 10-11.

In section 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by Pintsov '889 in view of DeSchrijver '042.

Solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 13-14 without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection is moot.

4. New Claims

Applicants present new claims 16-27 that Applicants respectfully submit are patentable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action on the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 6-12 and 16-27 are in condition for allowance.

5. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

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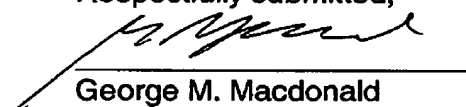
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

6. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-575.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-575.

Respectfully submitted,



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